



# EXPRESS

reformed youth services

Committed to the Spiritual and Social Nurturing of our Covenant Youth

Spring 2020

A Newsletter to RYS Member Sponsors

## Lord willing, RYS plans proceed for Convention & LOGOS

The following statement, approved by the Board of Reformed Youth Services at their online meeting April 24, was posted on the RYS website (and Facebook page) on April 27:

*“The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” Deut. 31:8*

### UPDATE ON CONVENTION 2020 AND THE EFFECT OF COVID-19:

We want to communicate with you how RYS is addressing the potential impact on our upcoming summer convention to be held July 20-24 in Nampa, Idaho, Lord willing.

**As of now, we plan to move forward with the 2020 national convention and also the LOGOS 2020 Young Adults Conference to be held August 5-8, D.V.**

We do however, want to assure you that RYS is closely monitoring the government guidelines so that our decisions on our summer events are responsible and rational. While we remain hopeful that our summer conferences might proceed as planned, we will only do so after much prayer and with sufficient confidence in our ability to provide a safe and sanitary environment for all.

**We will announce whether we will proceed with the convention (and LOGOS) on Saturday, May 30 on our Facebook page and the homepage of the Reformed Youth Services website.** We believe that the longer we wait to make this important decision, the more accurate information we will have about the status and effect of COVID-19 both in Idaho and across the country.

**Convention invoices will be emailed to your church group contact leader attending the event shortly after the registration deadline of April 30. Payment is due June 1.** If you pay (with one check, please) and subsequently cancel by May 30, you will receive a full refund. If you cancel by June 15 we will return 75% of your registration fees. After June 15, there will be no refunds. Obviously, if RYS cancels convention, full refunds will be dispersed.

We are praying for you and your church leadership as you seek God’s guidance on how best to direct your youth group during these difficult times. Please reach out if you have questions to RYS Director Ed DeGraaf at [reformedyouth96@gmail.com](mailto:reformedyouth96@gmail.com) or (616) 307-7398. Please pray for all those affected by this virus and that the Lord will lead and guide us in our decision-making. The RYS Board & Convention planning committee would greatly appreciate your prayers on our behalf.

More information about the 2020 convention will be included in the email. If you or your group contact leader has any questions, please have them contact us at the email address or phone number listed above. Special note: Make sure that anyone who has signed up for the Whitewater rafting experience fills out the physical release form posted on the home page of our website ([reformedyouthservices.org](http://reformedyouthservices.org)) to bring to convention (please do not mail).

**The LOGOS 2020 Young Adults Conference** (per our statement above) is scheduled for August 5-8 at Lake Placid Christian Conference Center, located in Hartford City, Indiana. Lord willing, our keynote speaker will be Rev. Bradd Nymeyer, the senior pastor at First URC in Chino, CA. His theme will be “Finding Joy in the Ordinary.” Other speakers include Rev. Bill Boekestein, Rev. Breno Macedo and Rev. Talman Wagenmaker. Cost will be \$275.00 per person, \$500.00 for married couples. Online registration will be open later this month (D.V.) at [reformedyouthservices.org](http://reformedyouthservices.org). The LOGOS young adults conference is open to adult singles and married couples ages 18-30. The decision whether to proceed will be made May 30.

Lord willing, Reformed Youth Services has a couple other events planned for this coming fall: The **Washington-area high school retreat** is scheduled for October 16-17 at The Firs in Bellingham, WA. We hope to hold the **East Coast high school retreat** November 6-8 at a new site, Spruce Lake Retreat Center, located in Canadensis, PA. More details about the 2020 high school convention, LOGOS and the fall retreats will be communicated via Facebook, the RYS bi-weekly email and on our website.





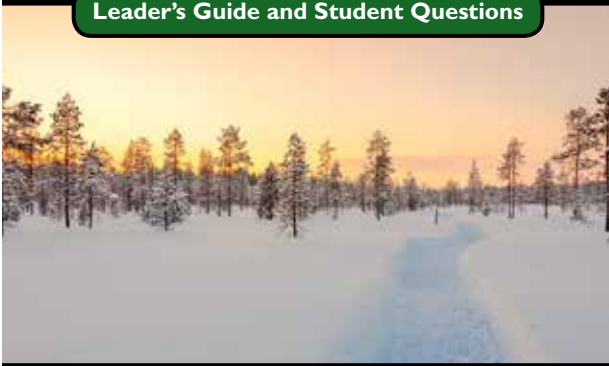
*For the past six years, RYS, with the generosity of Duttton URC in Caledonia, MI, has sponsored a post-high singles volleyball night. Typically, between 25-35 young adult singles meet for fun, fellowship and snacks, every other Tuesday night, all for free! This activity has been a blessing for our singles, leading to many friendships and increased participation in our LOGOS ministry. Although this year's season was cut short due to the COVID-19 virus, we hope to enjoy our seventh season beginning next winter!*




Since 2011, Reformed Youth Services has published 10 lesson material booklets authored by our pastors for use primarily by our high school youth groups. The booklets, which are mailed to each RYS member church and available online on our website under the Media tab, are a by-product of our annual convention workshops. We are thankful to the pastors who have assisted us in this way. Pictured clockwise below are the last four published booklets, authored by pastors Paul Murphy, Nick Smith, Jeff DeBoer and Russell Herman, respectively, covering the topics of purity, anxiety, identity and parent-teen relationships.

# Not Even a Hint

Leader's Guide and Student Questions



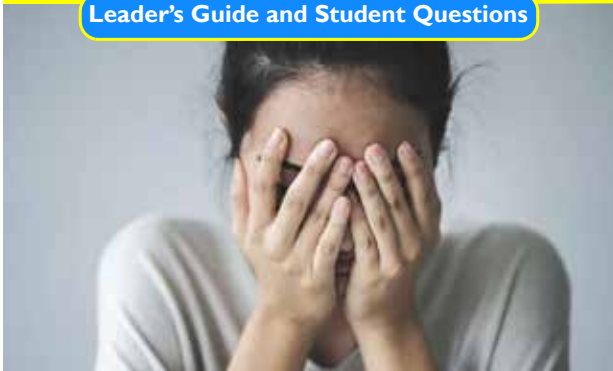
Discussion material for high school youth groups  
written from a reformed perspective




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# Why Do I Feel This Way? Anxiety, Depression and the Christian Life

Leader's Guide and Student Questions




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# Of Selfies and Our Stories

Leader's Guide and Student Questions



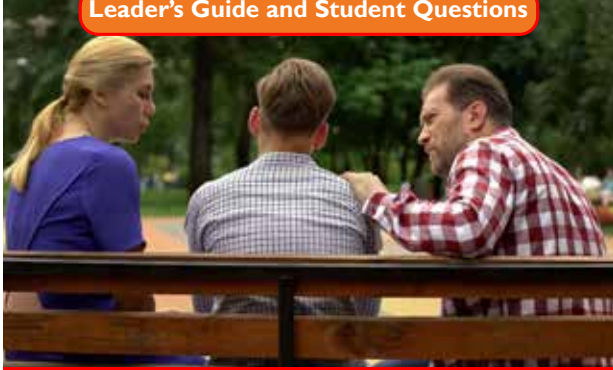
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# Are Everyone's Parents as Clueless as Mine?

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*Upcoming Events, D.V..... To pray and plan for!*

- ◆ **July 20-24** -- RYS National Youth Convention at Northwest Nazarene University, Nampa, ID
- ◆ **August 5-8** -- LOGOS 2020 Young Adults Conference at Lake Placid Chr. Conf. Ctr., Hartford City, IN.
- ◆ **October 16-17** -- Washington high school retreat, The Firs, Bellingham, WA.
- ◆ **November 6-8** -- East Coast high school retreat, Spruce Lake Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA.

*Note: RYS Events conclude at 12 midnight Saturday evening.  
Sunday worship is under the authority of a local member consistory.*

*Below is a picture from the 2014 whitewater rafting day away trip on the Clackamas River in Oregon. Lord willing, we are praying that we will be able to enjoy a similar whitewater rafting experience on the Payette River this coming July in Idaho. We have more than 650 people registered for the 2020 convention, most of whom have signed up to participate in this activity. We truly hope and pray that we will be able to enjoy God's beautiful creation outdoors together in Idaho!*

